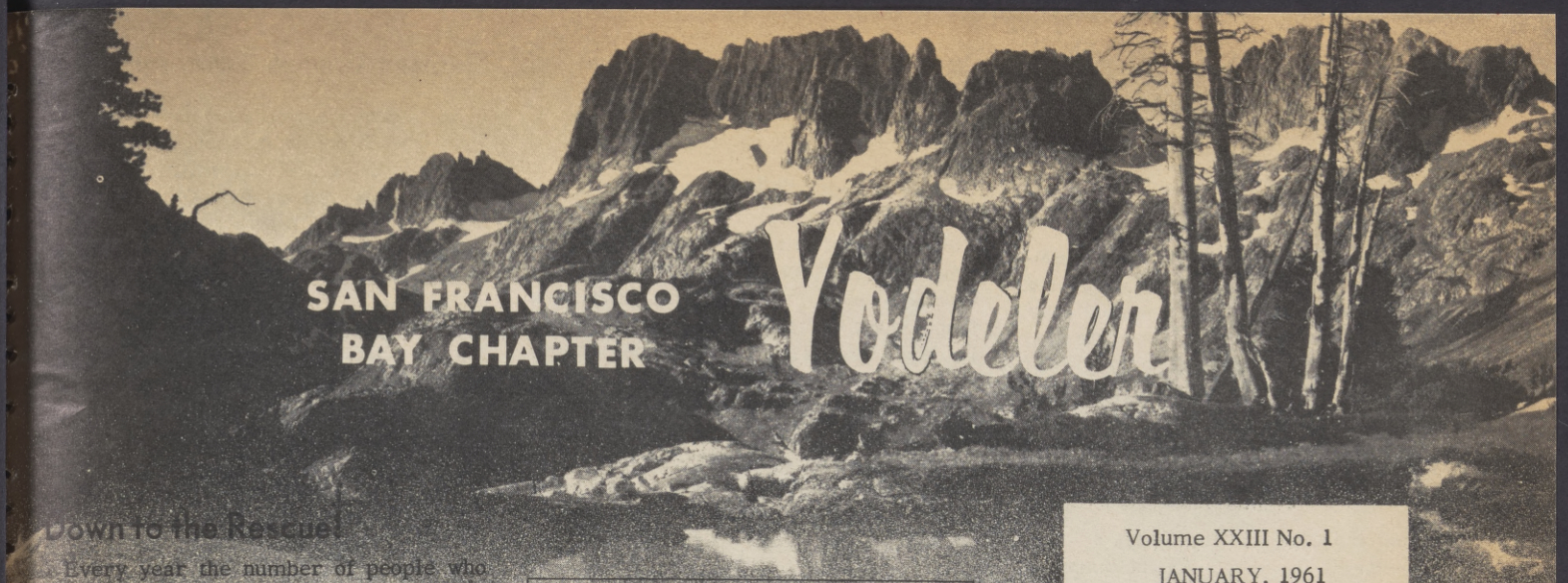


SAN FRANCISCO BAY CHAPTER

Yodeler

Volume XXIII No. 1
JANUARY, 1961

Down to the Rescue!

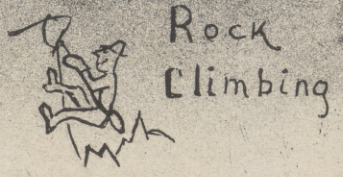
Every year the number of people who hike, ski or snowshoe out of Clair Tappaan lodge increases. The huts are attractive and the Club encourages the enjoyment of the natural scene. Inevitably the number of lost or injured persons increases. From time to time it is necessary to send out search or assistance parties. These have to be recruited from available personnel, sometimes not even members of the club, seldom properly experienced and never fully equipped. A harrowing experience last winter caused the management of the lodge to resolve that never again would an ill-equipped party be sent out.

Three packs are being readied carrying everything that the Forest Service recommends, plus certain additional items that appear appropriate for winter touring and rescue. Every effort is being made to hold the weight to the minimum, consistent with safety. To anyone who is interested we will furnish a list of the contents of the packs, but for those who will carry them it is written in indelible ink on the outside of each pack.

We would like to have three light down bags. It occurs to us that among the 16,000 members of the Sierra Club there must be a number of oldtime hikers and skiers, owners of down bags which are now mouldering in storage, who have decided that in view of their age, maturity and increased intelligence, they will spend their remaining nights in beds with the comfort of electric blankets. It is our hope that three of these wise old skiers or hikers would like to share by proxy in the rugged rescue trips which will inevitably take place in the coming winters. As these three heroes lie in their cosy beds they can have the glowing satisfaction of knowing that the lives of some young men struggling in the face of a howling blizzard are being made safer by their generous donation of that fine down bag which sheltered them in their skiing days.

Anyone interested in this remarkable opportunity to be a hero at a minimum of effort is asked to please communicate with the manager at Clair Tappaan Lodge, Norden, California.

—Keith Lummis



Rock Climbers Turkey and Raccoons

Assaults on unclimbed pinnacles and return visits to favorite climbs filled the Rock Climbers' Thanksgiving weekend at Pinnacles National Monument. There were song, food and impromptu battles between raccoons to fill the time left after late evening returns to camp.

Leader Steve Roper systematically worked the lugs off the boots of his party as he taught novices how to manage their hands and feet, and future leaders how to climb at the front of a rope. Steve's students, Dave McFadden, Sy Benton, Peter Harding, Howard Bradley, Al Saxton, Eileen Ginter, Len Larsen, and Ed Morse also served as editorial assistants; they provided advice on distances and routes, and comments for the new edition of the Climber's Guide to Pinnacles that Steve is preparing for eventual publication by the Sierra Club. Other climbers, including Francis Walcott, Frank Sacherer, Andy Lichtman, Jim Morgan, Dianne and Blake Westman, Greg Tilden, Tom Naylor, Jeff Foott, Joe McKeown and Al McDonald worked for perfection of technique and for a first ascent so Steve would have to include their names in the Guide. Unfortunately, Steve wasn't impressed with the

CONTINUED PAGE 4

Election Results

The following was the official count on the recent proposed amendment for membership: No—7010; Yes—1152.

A Mokelumne Wild Area

Everyone who drinks water from an East Bay faucet is—or should be—vitally interested in maintaining the watershed of the North fork of the Mokelumne River in first-class condition. Wilderness is the best water factory we know, and has the related multiple uses of recreation and wildlife, so we are particularly interested in the proposal, initiated by the Mother Lode Chapter, to classify the upper watershed of the Mokelumne river as a Wild area, which would give it the same protection as the larger Wilderness areas. The Board of Directors of the Club has approved the project and it has the enthusiastic support of the Bay Chapter Executive Committee which is planning trips into the area during the summer schedule period.

This Wild area would extend over 55,000 acres of granite country between Carson and Ebbets Pass roads. It is roughly a triangle with its apex at Round Top in the north, 10,400 feet high, extending to a base line in the south along the divide between the Mokelumne and Stanislaus Rivers. The deep canyons of the Mokelumne and Summit City canyon cut diagonally across the area giving an enormous variety of types and altitudes within the area. There are many lakes up on the rolling granite plateau above the canyons, with plenty of good small campsites and a number of places suitable for larger groups.

This is not a heavily timbered section except on the southern boundary, nor is there much grazing. Ski resorts and lakeside developments would be most likely to oppose the classification as a Wild area, and the southern boundary may have to be modified to accomodate such objections. The supervisors of the two National Forests involved, Stanislaus and El Dorado, have been consulted and one

CONTINUED PAGE 4

Sierra Club Yodeler

A publication of the San Francisco Bay Chapter. Address all communications to Yodeleditor, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco 4.

As a service to club members non-commercial classified ads will be accepted at the rate of 35¢ per line of printed copy. Persons submitting ads may compute their copy on the basis of approximately 7 words per line. Check must accompany copy.

Commercial advertising is solicited. Please request rate card.

YODELER STAFF
Peter Whitney, Editor

Eunice Dodds Jim Dodds
Cartoonist Elaine Simpson
Circulation Manager Cicely M. Christy
Production Manager A. Louis Elliott
Advertising Manager Jim Watters
Subscription $2.00 per year

NEXT DEADLINE: January 23
Editorial Work Nights: Jan. 16 & 23.

Volume XXIII No. 1 January, 1961

Letters to the Editor

Yodeler Editor:

Please give us bus-riding Hikers a break and put us in "circulation"—too much is said on conservation and not enough of local hikes.

You should read the CCHC "Knapsack" and it is free to members—a four-page mimeograph paper on everything that is going on within club circles. Too much can be said on conservation, it gets "stale" and "old" at times.

Let's start the 1961 year with a bang and let hikers know we have something doing every Sunday some place.

Yours,
Harold A. Atkinson

New Executive Committee Members

Three new members will take their places on the chapter Executive Committee when it convenes for its January meeting. They are Ken Gooden, Mildred Holota, and Jim Watters.

They will join incumbents Wes Bunnelle, Bruce Grant, Paul Grunland, Margo Gwinn, and Claudia Owen.

Lyn Wright was reelected but has since submitted his resignation in order to take care of personal and professional obligations.

The Executive Committee expects to ask Carl Weisner to fill the 1961 vacancy left by Wright. Weisner is already completing another unexpired term on the Committee.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Boynton, Stew and Bob:

Wish I could sit with you at the usual Monday lunch table to share some of the experiences of this trip. I am in terms of time only half way to Europe where my technical work really begins; yet I have found much technical material already—in Japan and Thailand. Japan, as one would expect, is taking nuclear work in stride, and housing this work in very good buildings. Visited at length the Tokai Mura National Laboratory, the Sumitomo Co., Takarazuka Lab, and the Mitsubishi Co. Ohmaya Lab. (Okimaya?) In Thailand nuclear studies are being inaugurated, assisted by such agencies as the International Atomic Agency, which has sent experts from England and other countries. Talking with the Director of the Thai Atomic Energy Commission I was shown the plans and model for their Curtis-Wright reactor (one Megawatt) to be erected in Bangkok at the grounds of the University of Agriculture. Was originally designed for a very crowded site at Chulalongkorn (?) University, but due to protests by scientists who will occupy the Laboratories, the reactor building is being modified in design, and the larger site has been selected.

Incidentally, the U.C. oceanographic vessel "Stranger" is currently based in Bangkok.

Attended an evening meeting of the Assoc. for Conservation of Wildlife, at the home and private museum of Dr. Boonsong Lekagul, who recently visited the Sierra Club. Heard talk by a man who knows the hill tribes of Northern Thailand and Burma. Their custom is to slash and burn the forest to make fields—grow opium poppies, hemp and corn for at most two seasons, then move to new land and repeat the process. This drives away the game, wastes teak forests, and is silting the rivers and flooding the plains. Sound familiar? An odd note: elephant and rhinoceros trails also erode into gullies here! The river touring people would be interested to see these hill folk travel on their jungle rivers in teak dugouts and bamboo rafts. The Thai are wonderful boatmen—and in much of the country they live entirely in boats. I've seen four-year-old children and very old women handle their graceful one-man canoes with unconscious grace and dexterity.

After a four-day rest in Ceylon, working up my journal and writing letters, I will go on to India for six weeks.

So Long!
Phil Faulconer

Election Day: A Close-up View

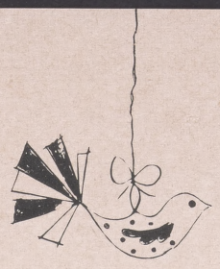
Your conservation reporter joined the Judges of Election in counting ballots on December 17th. The Club office on election day is a busy place. Fifteen people were hard at work by nine o'clock sorting envelopes into packets for the two letter-opening machines. There is the sound of the machines slicing into the envelopes. The packets (names all on the underside) are set before checkers who take out the ballots. There is sorting into Yes and No. There is the sound of staplers pounding into each bundle of twenty ballots. Five bundles are given a yellow label, 100 Yes or 100 No, with the checkers' initials, and a recount of all bundles must be made by a separate checker so that all bundles have two signatures. There is always a last-minute voter who appears in person with his ballot at just before noon.

The cheerful chatter quiets down as hundreds grow into thousands and the adding machine begins to count and recount the totals. The final result is written on a special form letter to the President and signed by all the judges....Another election is over, and we return to our proper business of promoting conservation. —C.M.C.

The Coast Highway In the Balance

The Marin Board of Supervisors has set Jan. 17 (Tuesday) for a hearing on how Route 1 (Shoreline Highway) could be turned into a scenic road rather than a freeway. Bay Area and particularly Marin people should be on hand both to testify and just be there—to offset the expected descent of pro-freeway witnesses from the north. This is an important conservation step, one which will give Senator Jack McCarthy of Marin a clue to just how serious we all are about preserving that glorious stretch of Coast. Senator McCarthy intends to fight for a scenic roads category in the upcoming Legislature session....exactly how real that definition is to be, may depend to a great extent on how the meeting goes....Supervisor's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, San Rafael, 3 p.m. ....later if you can't get there promptly.

The fight for scenic roads rather than freeways in those choice parts of California that are most worth saving has taken an interesting semantic turn. "Scenic roads" is now a good word; "freeway" is hardly ever heard, even from highway engineers. Joseph P. Sinclair, the able director of District IV of the Highway Division, now says the plan is to build a scenic road within the existing definition of an "expressway," which is a less elaborately protected type of highway. Lovers of pleasure driving should beware that they aren't outdone in this battle of semanticists. —P.W.



Greetings

FOR CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR

FROM THE YODELER STAFF

Junior Song Fest

The Sierra Club Juniors are not only sports-minded, they are also interested in eating, seeing movies, and singing folk songs. And Saturday night, December 3, found a group of juniors doing just that.

Thanks to the fine hospitality of Andy Flett and his parents, the Juniors had a pot-luck dinner with everything from French bread and salads to a wonderful hamburger-and-spinach casserole by Ruth Kaufman. Bob and Joanne Elliott showed a movie of white-water fun and thrills down the Rogue River. This film was made by Dr. Robert Watkins when he took his family on one of the Sierra Club Rogue trips this last summer. (Incidentally, Dr. Watkins, who is the mayor of Belvedere, is probably the only city official who makes the rounds of his constituents in a kayak!)

Mr. Flett showed some delightful slides of various base camp and burro trips in the Sierras. We were sorry that the rest of us hadn't brought slides but only until Pat Cone arrived with her baritone ukelele. We had quite a song fest.

Even at a junior gathering, adults are always welcome. Bruce Grant, new head of the chapter, is taking his job seriously as he and his wife came to see how the Juniors were functioning and to join in on the fun.

The evening proved to be a lot of fun, with everyone seeing old friends and meeting new ones. In closing, I should say that our junior sponsor, Anita Suran, reminded all those who are helping with the Junior's ski trip to urge their friends to sign up early for the Hutchinson Lodge ski trip. In all probability, the lodge will be filled well in advance of the trip, which is on January 7th and 8th. Deadline for reservations is Jan. 3. Details in Chapter Schedule.

—Joanne Elliott

Conservation World-wide

The Leonard family have been looking at conservation projects on the other side of the world. Doris writes: I have been seeing as many people as I can fit in re the World Conference and conservation in general. The Phillipines are woefully lacking in Park concept. They flit from project to project and never finish any. Many unfinished monuments around. At least the Thai are trying. I had a 45-minute conference with the Minister of Agriculture. He may come to the World Conference himself with Dr. Boonsong.... Point Reyes on T.V. here tonight.... Phil Faulconer has something to say about Indonesia and its habit of burning off the jungle, and farming the clearings until exhausted, then abandoning them to erosion. (See Letters, Page 2).

In San Francisco on Jan. 27, 1961, there will be a conference on "Matching Needs for Open Space in the San Francisco Bay Area" at the U.C. Extension Center. A special feature of the conference will be a preview of a study by the National Park Service of the possibilities for preserving recreational and scenic open spaces in the Bay Area. The presentation will be made by Harold Gilliam, author and Sierra Club member. A major speaker will be Marion Clawson, now director of Land Use and Management Studies, Resources for the Future, Inc.

Subjects such as how to acquire open space; highways and open space; the human need for open space, among many others, are pertinent to our Club purposes and should bring many members to the Conference. Details and registration forms may be obtained from the Dept. of Conferences, University Extension, University of California, Berkeley 4, Calif.

—C.M.C.

New York's Good Example

An election development which should be of considerable interest to Californians was the approval given by New York voters, by a three-to-one majority, to a $75 million bond issue for recreation.

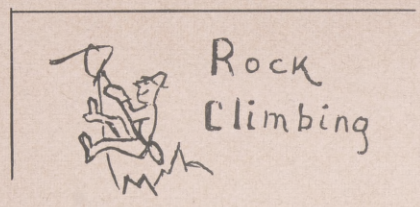
The losing race which is being run by the State Division of Beaches and Parks with the State's expanding population has turned the thoughts of many persons toward a bond issue as a supplement for the Division's lagging revenues from State tidelands oil royalties.

The New Yorkers, with their bond issue money, will acquire predominantly open or natural lands for conservation and outdoor recreation. Of the total, $20 million is allocated for lands for State parks, $15 million for State conservation and recreation lands other than parks and $40 million as grants to cities, counties, towns and villages for 75 percent of the cost of acquiring local parks if the local governmental units provide the remainder.

If the New Yorkers feel they have a problem in providing enough open space for present and future generations, Californians have an even greater problem. Our State parks hang out "no vacancy" signs early in the day in the summer season. Our four national parks are sometimes crowded to the point of suffocation despite Mission 66. Our 18 million acres of national forests do not have nearly enough campsites to meet the demand, even now.

We could do worse than study the New York example and ponder especially that three-to-one majority.

From the DAILY TRANSCRIPT, Concord, California, Wednesday, November 30, 1960



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"Peanut Pinnacles" that seemed to be the only new ascents achieved.

The dinner Thanksgiving evening did impress even the experienced outdoor cooks. Ed Roper, with the assistance and advice of fifteen self-styled authorities, lovingly completed roasting a huge turkey over the community fire. The assistant cooks also provided ready palates for testing the results. The only difficulty lay in deciding the relative excellence of the white and dark meat and the two kinds of stuffing.

Seven-tenths of an inch of rain Friday night failed to prevent the climbs planned for Saturday. Frank, Francis, and Andy triumphed over the horrors of the Hand. Steve's party hiked and climbed along Machette Ridge to enjoy Pinnacles' longest and most Yosemite-like trip. Andy and Jim climbed an uncountable number of pinnacles; and Blake, Diane, Tom and Greg managed to find about five separate climbs on the old, familiar Monolith. Al Saxton, accompanied by the gasps and cheers of a considerable audience of climbers, hikers, and tourists, worked his way up the Heffalump chimney, across the rotten rock, and to the relative security of Pteradactyl Terrace.

Saturday night, crashing garbage can lids and snarling raccoons battling for scraps of food repeatedly interrupted everyone's sleep. At one point the beams of several flashlights illuminated two fat, old 'coons who were balanced on opposite edges of a can swinging blows at each other in perfect boxing form.

Climbers traditionally value Pinnacles for its many climbs and for its rock with ample but loose holds, but hikers and campers ought to know this beautiful monument better than they do. The trails to the High Peaks and to Chalone Peak are excellent, the improbably shapes of the many pinnacles along the way offer endless opportunities for playing the game of "naming names." The caves in the Bear Gulch and Chalone Creek canyons, formed from boulders of all sizes piled on one another, are interesting to explore—but bring a flashlight! Adding to their interest is the legend that they were the hiding places of notorious Nineteenth Centurn bandits including Tiburicio Vasquez. Finally, the raccoons add an element of adventure—they stalk your camp just beyond the brightest lights.

Even with the rain and the masked bandits, the Rock Climbers' Thanksgiving trip was a climbing, hiking, and gastronomic success. —Ed Morse

They're Ruining the Country

They're ruining the country, the country so dear,
They're cutting little trenches and mountains disappear.
They're cutting down the mountains, the mountains so dear,
They're throwing down cans, the cans from beer.
They're cutting down the trees, the trees so dear,
And the little animals shed a bitter tear.

—Gail Grethel
Age 10 1/2

Personals

Born to Emile and Margaret Lacrampe on October 16, Paul Leon Lacrampe.

Born to Alex and Holly Hantke on Halloween Paul Sherman Hantke.

Ruth Ann Gunsky arrived December 1 to join Fred and Gladys Gunsky (and Deborah, her big sister) in preparation for future expeditions. She weighed 9 pounds 4 ounces and is already in training with light weight (2 and 3 ounces at a time) food preparations.

The promotion of Jim Watters, Oakland, has been announced by the Wells Fargo American Trust Co. in San Francisco. Jim now holds title as assistant cashier in the credit department.

A Mokelumne Wild Area

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of them seems agreeable to the idea. The procedure of getting an area thus reclassified under Regulation U.2 gives great weight to the recommendation of the Forest supervisor, though the Chief Forester in Washington technically has the final say in the matter. Public interest in the proposal is very necessary, as usual, to draw attention to the support for the project.

The Mother Lode Chapter is asking all Chapters to do as much as they can to get people into the area, they have listed a number of good trips, car-camping and knapsacking, with roadhead and route, and inquiries as to Club or private trips will be welcomed by Luis G. Ireland, 1604 Deerwood Street, West Sacramento, California. Next Yodeler will, we hope, carry some pictures and more information about this part of the Sierra. —C.M.C.

ADD SCHEDULE

Knapsacker's Party and Reunion — February 3, 1961 (Friday) 6:30 p.m. Bellini's Italian Restaurant, 4130 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland. Tickets $2.70 per person. (Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Rex Smith, 2512 Hillegass Avenue, Berkeley 4. Make checks payable to Rex Smith. Or see members of the knapsacking committee.) Banquet, slides and movies of summer trips and lots of folk dancing this year.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Guitars—Maurer, pearl inlay, beautiful tone, $100, Martin, $80. GL 4-5582.

Wilderness Lots for Sale—We have three lots remaining in Camp Unalayee's lot sale. The lots are located in Northern Trinity County and range from 8.71 acres to 11.81 acres. Prices from $1500 to $1900. If you are interested in a wilderness location on a stream, contact Charles Scull, 745 La Para, Palo Alto, California. DA 3-9141

Complete skiing outfit, reversible parka #14, pants #14, boots with innerboots, #10 1/2 M, Hickory skis 6.6, poles, all $50, or separate. Mrs. Helga C. Tach, MO 4-5451

FOR RENT: Small apt. in Berkeley hills north of Campus. Would suit business woman or teacher with car. Fireplace, refrig., electric stove. Essential furniture. Good heating. $67.50 covers rent, garage, utilities. An attractive place for someone who likes the hills. Call TH 8-2159 between 7-9 a.m. or evenings.

Wampler Trail Trips—Wilderness trips hiking or riding. Year around activities at moderate prices with experienced organization. Visit California Sierra Nevada, Arizona Havasu Canyon and Chiricahua Mountains, Carmel back country and Mexico. Couples, families, groups—many come alone, make lasting friends. For details...
Box 45 Berkeley 1, Calif.

ANSEL ADAMS ON TV

Ansel Adams, distinguished photographer and Sierra Club director, will appear on KQED (Channel 9) in five films about "Photography—the Incisive Art." Produced and directed by Robert Katz, the showings will be:

I. "Photography as an Art": Wednesday, Dec. 28, 9:30 p.m.; Thursday, Dec. 29, 4 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 30, 8 p.m.

II. "Points of View": Wednesday, Jan. 4, 9:30 p.m.; Thursday, Jan. 5, 4 p.m.; Friday, Jan. 6, 8 p.m.

III. "Techniques": Wednesday, Jan. 11, 9:30 p.m.; Thursday Jan. 12, 4 p.m.; Friday, Jan. 13, 8 p.m.

IV. "Professional Photography": Wednesday, Jan. 18, 9:30 p.m.; Thursday, Jan. 19, 4 p.m.; Friday, Jan. 20, 8 p.m.

V. "The Language of the Camera Eye": Wednesday, Jan. 25, 9:30 p.m.; Thursday, Jan. 26, 4 p.m.; Friday, Jan. 27, 8 p.m.

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Old Coal Mining Towns

Sunday, November 20th, we left the Greyhound Depot for Lower Mt. Diablo Hills, stopping at Berkeley to pick up a few people, continued to Walnut Creek for a coffee stop, then went over Kirker Pass to the road to Nortonville, where coal (soft) was mined about 85 years ago.

We left the bus there and hiked over to Somersville, where we visited an old cemetery. We then went to the Sandstone Caves, which we explored. Extensive operations were going on here a few years ago.

We ate our lunch at the Caves and hiked on over the low hills to Stewartville and West Hartley. No buildings, except mine dumps, remain of any of the towns.

Around 5 p.m. we found our bus on the Deer Valley road.

There were 23 boys, 19 girls on the hike, led by Ken McCreary and Nina Eloesser. —H. A. Atkinson

WHO PAYS?

Death means loss. Losses must be paid.
By whom—
your family or *my insurance company?*

DON GOLDEN, *Insurance*
OAKLAND PHONE: OLYMPIC 3-6617

Morley Awards

Four "scholarships" for teachers and teachers-in-training will be awarded in the Bay Chapter this year by the Club's Morley Fund Committee.

The Morley Fund was set up some years ago to help young people to go on Sierra Club summer outings. Each year candidates are selected from different chapters. Awards cover trip fees, transportation and equipment.

Young people who intend to be teachers and who are good conservationist prospects are the kind of material sought by the Morley Fund Scholarship Committee. Any member who feels eligible for a scholarship or who knows of someone who would be eligible should address a note to the Committee, care of the Club office.

The Executive Committee at its January meeting must also appoint a member to work with the Committee.

Teachers-to-be can include high school students.

C.T.L. Hostesses

Anyone with a little bit of extra energy can save the cost of a weekend at CTL by being a host or hostess. Keith Lummis, manager at CTL, needs an assistant to coordinate the volunteer labor, direct new guests and be generally helpful. All that is required is two and a half hours in early morning and evening. There is also no charge on Signal Hill. Hostesses will be scheduled every weekend from Dec. 10-11, and for all holidays. Contact Dottie Ellis, JO 7-4629 for more details and schedule sheet.

The Sierra Club
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San Francisco 4, California

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TIME VALUE
Please Expedite

WARMING HUT ON SIGNAL HILL
This beautiful photo by George Homsey should give all skiers the urge to enjoy the club's facilities at Norden often this winter.